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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/090,847	03/04/2002	Anthony Splaver	2893-17	5910

7590 03/17/2005

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EXAMINER

TAYLOR, BARRY W

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2643

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/090,847

Applicant(s)

SPLAVER ET AL.

Examiner

Barry W Taylor

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,6-10 and 12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,6-10 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 March 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Examiner's previous Office Action made final on (8/20/04) is vacated.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ung et al (6,694,000 hereinafter Ung) in view of Joyce et al (6,381,316 hereinafter Joyce) cited on the Ung patent.

Regarding claims 2-3. Ung teaches a method for storing electronic communications for access over a global communications system, comprising:

establishing a prepaid account including a validation number and an account balance (col. 2 lines 42-47, see Replenishment History figure 3, figure 4);

receiving an electronic communication to the prepaid account (see columns 2-4 wherein the electronic communication is CDR information relating to subscriber's prepaid account);

storing the electronic communication in a central repository (see web gateway 120 figure 1 used as central repository for WEB Based Prepaid Reporting Page);

logging in to the central repository from a remote computer using the validation number (see subscriber uses Internet device 300 figure 1 to log into the Web Gateway 120 from remote locating via Internet 250 connection);

serving the electronic communication to the remote computer (see figure 3 wherein electronic information is displayed on Web page to subscriber); and
decrementing the prepaid account.

Ung does not explicitly show wherein the electronic communication is voice mail or facsimile.

Joyce teaches an enhanced communication platform and related communication method using the platform supporting the use of personal identification number access cards for use in fixed and mobile markets from any communication device located anywhere in the world providing flexible call processing and switching services that deliver enhanced computer telephony capabilities (abstract). Joyce discloses using calling cards used for advanced communications, such as voice mail, call forwarding,

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call conferencing, faxes, etc. (col. 2 lines 60-67, col. 3 lines 1-38, col. 3 lines 52-65, col. 5 lines 48-62, col. 6 lines 16-30, col. 8 lines 35-58, col. 9 line 60 – col. 10 line 51, col. 11 lines 3-65, col. 15 lines 21-31, col. 17 lines 30-50, col. 20 line 45). Joyce even charges for the services provided to subscriber by decrementing a charge from a pre-paid user account or adding a charge to a credit account (col. 4 lines 7-42, col. 9 lines 5-23, col. 12 line 67 – col. 13 line 12, col. 20 lines 25-50). Joyce provides visual access to subscriber (see web page used col. 5 lines 60-62, columns 12-13, col. 14 lines 1-36, col. 15 lines 1-5, col. 15 lines 11-63, col. 20 lines 25-50). In summation, Joyce teaches using prepaid account with validation number used for Voice Mail and Conferencing (see lower right side of figure 1 (i.e. block 27) which list services offered to customers worldwide by using prepaid account (see block 27 connected to “PIN SERVER” directly above block 27). Furthermore, it is noted that the services listed in block 27 (figure 1) may also include “facsimile” and other services (see at least col. 20 line 45).

It would have been obvious for any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the web page as taught by Ung to include prepaid account information as taught by Joyce for the benefit of offering additional services, such as voice mail and facsimile to subscribers for additional fees charged to subscriber's pre-paid account.

3. Claims 6-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neal (6,411,685) in view of Joyce et al (6,381,316 hereinafter Joyce).

Regarding claim 6. O'Neal teaches a method for storing electronic communications for access over a global communications system (Title, abstract), the method comprising:

receiving an electronic communication to an account, the electronic communication being received in a non-web-compatible format (see abstract wherein server node provides message conversion so that a user at the user node can retrieve messages of different media types, see figure 1 wherein file server 118 used to store messages, col. 2 lines 8-49, col. 5 line 13 – col. 6 line 14, col. 7 lines 18-38, col. 8 lines 8-16, line 55 and line 58, col. 9 lines 21-23);

converting the electronic communication to a web compatible format (title, abstract, col. 2 lines 8-49, col. 5 line 13 – col. 6 line 14, col. 7 lines 18-38, col. 8 lines 8-16, line 55 and line 58, col. 9 lines 21-23);

storing the converted electronic communication in a central repository (col. 2 lines 26-49);

logging in to the central repository from a remote computer using the validation number (col. 2 lines 7-19, see 20 figure 1);

serving the converted electronic communications to the remote computer (title, abstract, col. 2 lines 8-49, col. 5 line 13 – col. 6 line 14, col. 7 lines 18-38, col. 8 lines 8-16, line 55 and line 58, col. 9 lines 21-23).

O'Neal does not explicitly show establishing a prepaid account. However, O'Neal allows customers to pay before service is offered (see "MY ACCOUNT" in figure 7).

Joyce teaches an enhanced communication platform and related communication method using the platform supporting the use of personal identification number access cards for use in fixed and mobile markets from any communication device located anywhere in the world providing flexible call processing and switching services that deliver enhanced computer telephony capabilities (abstract). Joyce discloses using calling cards used for advanced communications, such as voice mail, call forwarding, call conferencing, faxes, etc. (col. 2 lines 60-67, col. 3 lines 1-38, col. 3 lines 52-65, col. 5 lines 48-62, col. 6 lines 16-30, col. 8 lines 35-58, col. 9 line 60 – col. 10 line 51, col. 11 lines 3-65, col. 15 lines 21-31, col. 17 lines 30-50, col. 20 line 45). Joyce even charges for the services provided to subscriber by decrementing a charge from a pre-paid user account or adding a charge to a credit account (col. 4 lines 7-42, col. 9 lines 5-23, col. 12 line 67 – col. 13 line 12, col. 20 lines 25-50). Joyce provides visual access to subscriber (see web page used col. 5 lines 60-62, columns 12-13, col. 14 lines 1-36, col. 15 lines 1-5, col. 15 lines 11-63, col. 20 lines 25-50). In summation, Joyce teaches using prepaid account with validation number used for Voice Mail and Conferencing (see lower right side of figure 1 (i.e. block 27) which list services offered to customers worldwide by using prepaid account (see block 27 connected to “PIN SERVER” directly above block 27). Furthermore, it is noted that the services listed in block 27 (figure 1) may also include “facsimile” and other services (see at least col. 20 line 45).

It would have been obvious for any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize the teachings of Joyce into the teachings of O’Neil in order to provide

services to customers worldwide, as well as, only paying for the services as they are used as disclosed by Joyce (col. 2 lines 14-23 and lines 60-65).

Regarding claim 7. O'Neal teaches converting voice mail to a web-compatible format (abstract, see conversion engine 124 figure 1, col. 2 lines 26-33, see VOX and wave col. 8 lines 12-13).

Regarding claim 8. O'Neal teaches non-web-compatible format is VOX (see VOX col. 2 line 29, col. 8 lines 12-13, col. 8 line 55, col. 9 line 42, line 51, col. 13 line 4).

Regarding claim 9. O'Neal teaches web-compatible format is WAV (see top of figure 5 wherein Voice converted to "WAVE" file, see wave col. 8 line 12, see column 9 wherein VOX file converted to wave file, see column 13 wherein VOX format converted to wave file).

Regarding claim 10. O'Neal teaches converting fax to a web-compatible format (abstract, see conversion engine 124 figure 1, col. 2 lines 33-37, col. 5 lines 42-65, col. 11 lines 8-19, col. 12 lines 46-54).

Regarding claim 12. O'Neal teaches converting the fax into image format (col. 2 lines 35-37, col. 5 lines 42-45, col. 11 lines 8-19).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2 and 3 filed 2/22/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

a) Regarding Applicants remark on page 5 wherein Applicants contend that Ung or Joyce fail to teach prepaid functionality.

The Examiner notes that Joyce teaches the decrementing the prepaid account used for voice mail (see "NETWORK VOICE MAIL" bottom left of figure 1 or "VOICE MAIL SERVICING" bottom right figure 1, see "VOICE MAIL PROFILE bottom right figure 5, see "VOICE MAIL BOX" top right figure 10) or fax (see "FAX" center of figure 8, see "FAX" center of figure 9, see "FAX" left side figure 10.). In summation, Joyce teaches using prepaid account with validation number used for Voice Mail and Conferencing (see lower right side of figure 1 (i.e. block 27) which list services offered to customers worldwide by using prepaid account (see block 27 connected to "PIN SERVER" directly above block 27). Furthermore, it is noted that the services listed in block 27 (figure 1) may also include "facsimile" and other services (see at least col. 20 line 45).

5. Regarding Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 6-10 and 12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231
or faxed to:
(703) 872 9314,
(for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or
"DRAFT")

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Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121
Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barry W. Taylor, telephone number (703) 305-4811, who is available Monday-Friday, 6:30am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz, can be reached at (703) 305-4708. The facsimile phone number for this group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group 2600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750, the 2600 Customer Service telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry W. Taylor", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Barry W. Taylor
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2600
Art Unit 2643